

34. (Amended) A method for detecting cancer cells in a histopathological margin specimen external to a primary tumor comprising the steps of:

testing a plurality of microsatellite markers in a histopathological margin specimen external to a primary tumor to determine a microsatellite marker length alteration relative to a control sample, wherein a length alteration indicates the presence of cancer cells in the specimen.

38. (New) The method of claim ~~24~~² wherein the specimen is blood.

~~12~~ 39. (New) The method of claim ~~24~~² wherein the specimen is bile.

~~13~~ 40. (New) The method of claim ~~24~~² wherein the specimen is stool.

~~14~~ 41. (New) The method of claim ~~24~~² wherein the specimen is cervical smears.

42. (New) The method of claim ~~24~~² wherein the specimen is saliva.

~~15~~ 43. (New) The method of claim ~~24~~² wherein the specimen is tears.

~~16~~ 44. (New) The method of claim ~~24~~² wherein the specimen is cerebral spinal fluid.

~~17~~ 45. (New) The method of claim ~~24~~² wherein the specimen is lymph nodes.